



Cops follow many leads in vandal case

By Kevin Bottrell
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The investigation continues into Tuesday's vandalism at Beulah Cemetery, and to help the police and cemetery district are teaming up to offer a \$1,500 reward.

An unknown number of vandals entered the cemetery sometime late Monday or early Tuesday and knocked over or damaged 168 headstones, broke vases and threw potted flowers on the ground.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said the police are offering \$500 through the Law Enforcement Trust Fund and the Colby Cemetery District is offering \$1,000 for information leading to an ar-

rest. Anyone with information, he said, should call the department at 460-4460.

Jones said the department is running down all types of leads, speaking to people who were out that night, talking to businesses that are open late and even looking at Facebook pages. Jones said in these cases when police talk to people they get another list of people to talk to. Most of the conversations don't lead anywhere, he said, but all the leads need to be followed.

Jones said Colby businesses, such as the convenience stores, have been very cooperative and helpful.

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Sheriff's deputy prevents suicide

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Thomas County Deputy Sheriff Tom Graham went the extra mile last week to avert a suicide and ended a long evening by saving the woman's life.

Wednesday was not a quiet day for the deputy, after he started his shift at 4 in the afternoon. It got busier as the shift wore on, and ended miles away in another county.

"A friend a person we ended up searching for came to the Law Enforcement Center around 8:15 p.m. on Aug. 4, and referred to several comments the friend, a female, had been making about suicide," the deputy said. "The friend said she had been having some trouble in the past, so I drove to her trailer to see where she might be, but there was no one there."

He said the friend called him again to say the woman had called to say goodbye, but couldn't be found.

The deputy said he called Ve-



Tom Graham

ron, to see if he could find out which cell tower the call might have bounced off of.

"The tower record showed that four calls or so had come from an area southeast of Hoxie," Graham said, "so I drove to Hoxie where Sheriff Brian Fenner of Sheridan County and got into his patrol car and began searching the area."

"We had initially received some bad information, so I called Veri-

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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

This Honda CRV got a flat tire and rolled on I-70 near the Mingo exit Monday. The driver Janis Gott and passenger, Steven Levin, who were both wearing seatbelts, walked away without any injuries.

Couple walks away from rollover

By Andy Heintz
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Two Ohio residents walked away with no injuries after their 1998 Honda CRV rolled on Interstate 70 near the Mingo exit Monday when the right rear tire blew out. State troopers say it's probably no coincidence they were both wearing their seat belts.

The wreck occurred at mile marker 62 at about 1:20 p.m. Monday, said Trooper Tod Hileman, public relations officer for Kansas Highway Patrol Troop D out of Hays. Janis Gott, 54, Cincinnati, was driving east on the freeway when the tire blew, Trooper Cody Honas of Highway Patrol Troop D, said. Steven Levin, 53, Toledo, was in the passenger seat.

Honas said the after the tire blew, Gott lost control and the car went over the median. He said he didn't think the car ever rolled all the way.

Hileman said nobody was hurt, maybe because both driver and passenger were wearing their



Kansas Highway Patrol troopers and Thomas County Sheriff's deputies reconstructed the accident for their report after checking on the occupants.

seat belts.

Hileman said the single-car rollover is the most common type of accident troopers cover around here.

Rollovers happen when a tire blows or when someone falls

asleep at the wheel, he said. Honas said one window of the Ohio car had been busted open and the vehicle was pretty much totaled.

Hileman said rural Kansas had the lowest seat belt usage rates in the state. Maybe it's the cowboy

mentality, opposition to big government or the lack of bumper-to-bumper traffic, he said.

The trooper said victims are four times more likely to die in a crash if they leave their vehicle. And those who don't wear seat belts run a much greater risk of being ejected.

On the positive side, Hileman noted that Kansas had only 388 automobile-related fatalities last year — the state's lowest total ever.

Hileman said the Highway Patrol is working to get people to buckle up since the state's new "primary" seat belt law went into effect on July 1. The law allows officers to ticket a driver for not wearing a seat belt without having some other reason to stop the vehicle.

Hileman said the outcome of rollovers largely depends on whether or not the people are wearing a seat belt.

"The seat-belt people I usually end up talking to," he said, "and the non-seat-belt people are being hauled off in an ambulance — or worse."

Green rally to stop here Monday

Colby citizens will get a unique opportunity to look at some 100-mile-per-gallon cars on Monday when the Rally Green 2010 stops in town.

Three teams will drive cross country in custom-built cars that aim to get near or more than 100 miles per gallon of gas.

They will drive 350 miles a day from Knoxville, Iowa, to San Francisco, Calif., and will avoid a lot of major cities like Kansas City, Denver and Salt Lake City.

Most of the routes follow U.S. highways or county roads, but in several places the teams will have to get on the interstate.

The teams will drive from Knoxville to Lincoln,

Neb., the first day. The second day they will head south on U.S. 77 to where it joins U.S. 24 northwest of Manhattan and take U.S. 24 straight to Colby. The teams will set up in Fike Park in the evening to let people take a look at the cars and ask questions.

On Tuesday the teams will take off from Colby west down I-70 to Limon, Colo., and turn on U.S. 24, head to Colorado Springs and finish the day in Aspen, Colo. By day six, the teams will reach San Francisco.

The teams will compete for gas mileage each

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State expects huge corn crop

WICHITA (AP) — Kansas farmers are expected to harvest the biggest corn crop in the state's history this year.

The Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service on Thursday forecast corn production in Kansas at 629.2 million bushels. That would surpass last year's record crop of 598.3 million bushels.

Kansas growers planted 4.7 million acres in corn this year, the highest planted acreage for corn in the state since 1936.

Kansas is expected to produce

by far more bushels of corn this season than wheat. The 2010 wheat crop is pegged at 369 million bushels, down less than 1 percent from last year. The wheat crop was grown on 8.2 million acres, down 600,000 acres from a year ago.

Driving the increase in corn acres this season was an unusually wet fall in 2009, when winter wheat is planted, that kept many farmers out of the fields, said Jason Lamprecht, deputy director at the Kansas Agricultural Statistics

Service.

"Not as many acres got planted, so when came spring time and they didn't have wheat in the ground ... they had to find something else to do," Lamprecht said. "We had more acres of soybeans than corn because of that also."

Kansas has had a stretch of triple-digit temperatures with little, if any rain, since then. The impact of that weather on crop conditions will not be reflected until the agency releases its updated forecast in September.

Briefly

Claim your fair entry prize

Prize checks for the 4-H and Open Class exhibit winners from the 2010 Thomas County Fair are ready to be picked up at the Extension Office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information, call the office at 460-4582.

Colby High yearbooks available

Students and others should pick Colby High yearbooks during enrollment, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday in the high school commons. Extra yearbooks will be available for \$50. For information, call sponsor Donna Henry at 460-5300.

Food signup ends Monday

Prairie Land Food signup for August ends Monday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth, with delivery at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth. For information, call Gene Griffin at (785) 460-3579.

Heartland seeks young students

Heartland Christian School is accepting enrollment applications for preschool and kindergarten classes. Call (785) 460-6419 for information on the 2010-11 school year. The school is at 1995 W. Fourth Street in Colby.

Sacred Heart enrolling Tuesday

Sacred Heart School enrollment will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the school for all students in preschool through fifth grade. New students need to bring a copy of their birth certificate, Social Security number, immunization records and physical. For information, call Principal David Evert at 462-2813

Volleyball team, parents to meet

The Colby Middle School volleyball team will have a parent-and-player meeting for incoming seventh and eighth graders at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the middle school cafeteria. Practice will start at 3:45 p.m.

Thursday. For information, call Shirley Arnberger at 460-6464.

Vets may form chapter here

The Hays Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America will sponsor a meeting for Vietnam-era veterans at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall, 220 N. Lake Ave, to discuss forming a Colby chapter. For information, call Jack Duncan at (785) 846-7678.

Church plans carnival, picnic

The Colby Wesleyan Church will hold a free Kids' Carnival and Family Picnic with games, prizes and free supper from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 22, at the church, 320 W. Pine. Everyone is invited. Free school supplies will be available for elementary and middle-school students of families in financial need. Registration will begin at 5:45 p.m. For information, call the church office at 462-8391.

Volunteers needed for Relay

Relay for Life, an annual fund raiser for the American Cancer Society, needs teams and team captains for the relay, which is on for 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Fike Park. For information or to sign up, call Denise Stupka at 462-2122. The event has not been cancelled, she said.

Catholic youth ordering fruit

The Sacred Heart Catholic Youth Organization is taking orders for peaches, pears and apples until Monday, Aug. 23. Pickup will be Wednesday, Sept. 1, at the 4-H Building. To order, call Megan Augustine at the rectory, 462-2179. Some fruit may be available for those who do not order ahead of time.

